

# **Minutes of the Veneta City Council**

## **January 26, 2009**

**Present:** Mayor Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Darrell Carman, Marion Esty, T. J. Brooker and Sandra Larson

**Others:** Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Brian Issa, Community Services Director; Zac Moody, Assistant Planner; Sheryl Hackett, City Recorder; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; Mel Purvis, Linda Boothe and Ephraim Payne, West Lane News

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### **1. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER**

Assistant City Recorder Darci Henneman swore in T. J. Brooker as City Councilor.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **Mel Purvis of Red Barn Properties, 88273 Territorial Road, Veneta, OR**

Mr. Purvis said he would like the Council to look into what the Cities of Springfield and Lowell have done with their SDCs and building permits. He said they are now postponing assessing SDCs until a property is sold rather than when the building permit is issued.

In response to a question from Marion Esty, Mr. Purvis said he did not know the City of Springfield is charging 5% interest on the deferred SDCs owed if they are paid once the property is sold rather than when the building permit is issued.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Darrell Carman seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Marion Esty, aye; Darrell Carman, aye; Mayor Hobart-Hardin, aye; Sandra Larson, aye; and T. J. Brooker, aye.

The consent agenda as approved included bills paid/payable for January 2009 and the civic calendar for February 2009.

### **4. PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. Amendments and Additions to the Land Development Ordinance 461, Article 2-Administrative Provisions/Amendments and Additions to the Land Division Ordinance 462, Article 4-Subdivisions, Article 5-Partitions

1. Mayor Hobart-Hardin opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.
2. Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest and Ex-parte contacts: None
3. Staff Report  
Zac Moody said the amendments were brought to the Council on November 10, 2008. At that time, the Council had a few concerns about map requirements. Staff made some changes to reflect the Council wishes. Zac said there are no changes in Article 2. Article 4 and 5 had straightforward changes. The maps will still be required but it is at staff's discretion as to what maps will be required.

Staff recommended that the Council approve Ordinance 487 (repealing and replacing Article 2 of the Land Development Ordinance and Article 4 & 5 of the Land Division Ordinance) for first ready by title only.

4. Public Testimony  
None

5. Questions from the Veneta City Council

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker about how the changes will affect the inventory of as-builts for future requirements, Zac said this will not impact as-builts. The maps are required as part of their application that show things such as stormwater drainage and utilities. Often showing all on one map makes the map difficult to read.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Zac said the applicant would be informed at the pre-development conference what maps and information would be required on the application. He said once an application is submitted, staff would work with the applicant to make sure the application is complete.

Brian said the applicant generally can submit one complete set of maps to staff for a completeness review. Once the application is complete, staff would require the applicant to submit the additional required copies.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Brian said if staff cannot decipher the drawings on a map, the applicant would be required to split the information among several different maps. Brian said an example of what maps may not be required depends on whether the application is for an entire subdivision or just a partition.

Zac said staff will decide if the property lines, sewer, utilities, etc. can fit all on one map. He said if it's confusing, the applicant will be required to submit individual maps. He said obviously, a partition will require less map information than a large subdivision. He said Hayden Homes submitted individual maps for the Applegate Landing subdivision because there was too much information for one map.

Brian said a lot depends on the skill of the draftsman. In response to a question from Tim Brooker, Brian said overlays are not used.

Mayor Hobart-Hardin said the changes are quite minor and should make the application process more user friendly. She thanked Zac for his update from the November 10, 2008 Council meeting.

6. Mayor Hobart-Hardin closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

7. Decision by the Council

**MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve Ordinance 487 for first reading by title only. Marion Esty seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

- (1) **Ordinance 487 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VENETA LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE 461, ARTICLE 2 AND THE VENETA LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE 462, ARTICLE 4 AND ARTICLE 5. First reading by title only.**

Ordinance 487 was read into the record by title only.

## 5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

- (1) State of the City Address  
Mayor Hobart-Hardin gave her state of the city address. A copy of Mayor Hobart-Hardin's state of the City address is attached hereto and incorporated herein.
- (2) Appointment of Park Board Members  
Mayor Hobart-Hardin said there are three vacancies on the Park Board and three applications were received. She made the following appointments: Bonnie Nagle, who is interested in becoming more involved in her community; Barbara Nelson who served on the Pool Committee and Gail Wilkie who was re-appointed to the Park Board.
- (3) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Harrold, LCSO  
Sgt. Harrold took a few moments to address the new Mayor and Council. He reviewed the activity report for December 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009 and explained what each column in the activity reports represents. He said a new column will be added to include the badge numbers of the responding deputies. He said the four Veneta patrol cars have additional lettering stating "Veneta Patrol" painted on the trunk area of the vehicles. He said this will identify and individualize the patrol cars to Veneta residents.

Sgt. Harrold told the Council that Deputy Scot Denham was involved in the capturing of the individual who abducted a young girl from the River Road area in Eugene. He said this was a true stranger abduction which accounts for only 6% of all nationwide child abductions. Police information indicated the abductor was heading north in a stolen car. Deputy Denham spotted the car at Territorial Road and Clear Lake Road. Deputy Denham followed the vehicle until reinforcements could arrive. He said authorities were incredibly fortunate that Deputy Denham was in the right place at the right time. Sgt. Harrold said the man was arrested and the girl was found okay.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

### a. FINANCE DIRECTOR.....JERRI MOORE

#### (1) Water & Sewer Rate Changes

##### (a) Public Comments

##### **Ms. Linda Boothe, 25272 Hunter Road, Veneta, OR**

Ms. Boothe said currently the City doesn't offer any kind of incentive to contractors who use low flow toilets or other water saving devices. She would like to see other incentives up for consideration rather than just account discounts.

Brian said the water rate study included a senior citizen discount on the water base rate and a low income discount on the sewer base rate. At the December 8, 2008 Council meeting, the Council wished to offer discounts to low income households only and do away with the senior citizen discount. Both discounts would be 25%. Brian said a notification letter was sent to senior citizens currently enrolled in the senior discount program. He said nine letters were returned because the service addresses were used rather than the mailing addresses. He said those nine letters were remailed. He said Resolutions 990, 991 and 992 require public comment session.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Ric said usage of low flow devices would be better reflected in the SDCs rather than compensation with their water bill. He also pointed out that water bills would be lower for buildings with low flow fixtures.

In response to a question from T.J. Brooker, Jerri said if a resident is currently qualified to receive the low-income sewer rate, a low-income discount on their water bill would be extended. She said if they currently are not receiving the sewer discount, they would need to submit an application.

- (b) **Resolution 990** - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WATER FEES AND RATES FOR USERS OF THE VENETA MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 986

**MOTION:** Tim Brooker made a motion to approve Resolution 990.  
Darrell Carman seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

- (c) **Resolution 991** - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES AND MONTHLY BASE FEES FOR USERS OF THE VENETA MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 912

**MOTION:** Tim Brooker made a motion to approve Resolution 991.  
Sandra Larson seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.

- (d) **Resolution 992** - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOW-INCOME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR REDUCED WATER AND SEWER BASE FEES AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 882

**MOTION:** Tim Brooker made a motion to approve Resolution 992.  
Marion Esty seconded the motion.

Darrell Carman said he would like to continue the discussion on offering a discount to senior citizens and he proposed keeping the senior discount on both water and sewer accounts. He felt senior discounts are intended to show an appreciation or thank you for seniors.

After much discussion it was the consensus of the Council to approve Resolution 992. The Council asked staff to provide more information on the senior discount at the February 9, 2009 Council meeting. It was agreed that if the Council chose, they could amend Resolution 992 to include a senior discount on sewer and water accounts.

**MOTION:** Vote 5-0.

- (2) **Audit Presentation**

Steve Tuchscherer of Roseburg presented the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City and reviewed his report with the Council. He said the City's Finance Director is very capable and knows what she's doing. Mr. Tuchscherer briefly talked about the new financial accounting software which will certainly add to the efficiency of the accounting department.

Mayor Hobart Hardin said she appreciated Mr. Tuchscherer report, saying it was very clear. She also appreciated the suggestions he made.

Mr. Tuchscherer suggested restructuring the General Ledger chart of accounts. He said new software will allow for more flexibility. He said with new software day to day accounting tasks can be done more efficiently. He said it's going to be a lot of work to make the software conversion and restructuring the accounting but in the long run it will be worth it.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker, Mr. Tuchscherer reviewed his report on the Urban Renewal Agency.

The Council had no questions.

- b. CITY RECORDER.....SHERYL HACKETT
- (1) **Ordinance 486** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF VENETA ORDINANCE NO. 38 WATER, ORDINANCE NO. 71 PROVIDING FOR PENALTY FOR ORDINANCES WHICH DO NOT PROVIDE WITHIN ITSELF PENALTY, ORDINANCE NO. 149 CONSTRUCTION PERMITS, ORDINANCE NO. 258 SEWERS, ORDINANCE NO. 272 PUBLIC DRAINAGE CHANNELS, ORDINANCE NO. 327 GARAGE SALES, ORDINANCE NO. 328 GENERAL OFFENSES, ORDINANCE NO. 371 TRAFFIC, ORDINANCE 421 NUISANCES, AND ORDINANCE NO. 430 BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS; AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 140, ORDINANCE 228, SECTION 3 OF ORDINANCE 387, SECTIONS 18 AND 19 OF ORDINANCE 448, AND SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE 468. First reading by title only.

Sheryl said during the code enforcement update process it was discovered that some City offenses were classified as misdemeanors which are not handled by Veneta Municipal Court unless they are reduced to violations. She said any misdemeanor reduced to a violation is subject to a higher unitary assessment. However, some of the City's offenses are classified as infractions, a term that is no longer used in the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Ordinance 486 amends the penalty sections by classifying all offenses as violations. In addition, several of the maximum fine amounts were increased to correspond with the fines listed in the ORS for similar violations. Sheryl said based on direction from legal counsel, felony offenses will be directed to Lane County because the City does not deal with felonies. Staff recommended that the Council make a motion to approve Ordinance 486 for first reading by title only.

**MOTION: T. J. Brooker made a motion to approve Ordinance 486 for first reading by title only. Darrell Carman seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

Ordinance 486 was read into the record by title only.

In response to a question from T. J. Brooker why the City doesn't assess fines consistent with ORS, Sheryl said the City doesn't adopt the same fines as the ORS in order for the City to determine and set our own bail schedule. She said state and county assessments are added to the fine the judge imposes.

- c. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR.....BRIAN ISSA
- (1) **Resolution 989** - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LAND USE PLANNING FEES; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 915

Brian said staff would like to postpone presenting Resolution 989 to the Council until February 9, 2009. He said the "whereas" sections were not updated when the Resolution was drafted.

(2) **Resolution 993 - A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING EXPENDITURE OF A GRANT FROM THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT FOR A WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING STUDY PROJECT**

Brian said on behalf of the City of Veneta, GSI Water Solutions submitted an application for grant funds in order to review the backwash system and water treatment filter system. Brian said the main contaminate in the water is iron. Brian said currently public works reverses the water flow to remove the iron from the water. He said this is not a DEQ regulated discharge. However, the City loses a high volume of water when the backwash process is done. Brian said the Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conservation, Reuse, and Storage Grant Program agreed and approved a portion of grant funds to cover the cost of a backwash feasibility study. He said the next round of grants will likely be awarded to implement projects that were awarded grant funds in the first round. Staff recommended approval of Resolution 993 in order to accept the grant funds from the Oregon Department of Water Resources.

In response to a question from Tim Brooker, Brian said the scope of the water master plan effort is through MSA Engineering, who subcontracted with GSI. Staffs' intent is to amend the current contract with MSA to include the backwash study.

**MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve Resolution 993. Sandra Larson seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0.**

d. CITY ADMINISTRATOR..... RIC INGHAM

(1) Council Goal Setting Session January 31, 2009

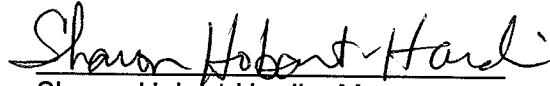
Ric provided a draft agenda for the goal setting session. He said Jamon Kent, Intergovernmental Relations Manager at LCOG, will provide facilitation services. He said staff had been working on their short term (0-18 months) and long term (18 to 48 months) goals and projects. Ric would like to consolidate Council and staff goals and priorities. Ric said Mayor Hobart-Hardin would like the liaison positions to be reappointed. He said Gail Wilkie, Chairperson on the Park Board and James Eagle Eye, Chairperson of the Veneta Planning Commission will also be attending the goal setting session.

Sheryl clarified a typographical error on the draft agenda.


Ric said he will be attending the Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting. He said one topic of discussion will be the project list that will accompany "The United Front" to Washington DC. He said the Highway 126 project made the project list. He said the City is expecting to receive \$100,000 from the Federal Economic Stimulus Funds for local street projects. He said the City will have many hoops to jump through including working with ODOT to secure the funds.

7. **ADJOURN**

Mayor Hobart-Hardin adjourned the City Council at 8:45 p.m.

  
Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder  
(Minutes prepared by Dhennehan)

Final

## STATE OF THE CITY OF VENETA

January 12, 2009

At the national, state and county levels of government, 2008 was the year of change. The longest and most expensive political campaign for President dominated the news, followed by the most dramatic collapse of an economic system in thirty years. While these historic events significantly impacted the daily lives of Veneta citizens, they also highlighted a major local theme-the continued and expanded civic participation by our non-profit partners and individuals.

Nowhere was this theme more apparent than in the accomplishment of two long -term goals that book-ended 2008:

1. In early 2008, the award of a \$320,100 grant by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation allowed the city to purchase the only publicly owned recreational fields in the community, ensuring their perpetual use by current and future children and adults. The Territorial Sports Fields, now to be known as the Bolton Hill Sports Complex, are a significant addition to the city's recreational amenities. More importantly, this major development was achieved through a collaborative effort with Territorial Sports Program, chaired by Sterling Pew. Their fundraising efforts and involvement was key to the award of the grant.



2. In November of 2008, the citizens of Veneta passed a swimming pool bond measure, 20-140, for \$1,100,000. Less than 50% of all state-wide bond measures passed, yet ours was approved by 62% of the voters, one of the highest approval ratings in the state. This bond measure represents a third of the necessary funding to construct a new, six lane swimming pool to replace the one destroyed in 2006. This resounding success was achieved through the dedicated hard work of a seven-member citizen volunteer committee chaired by City Councilor Tom Cotter and Parks Board Chair Gail Wilkie--and staffed by Brian Issa and Kyle Schauer. Thanks to their extremely hard work, dedication and commitment the city is now two-thirds of the way to having sufficient funding to break ground in 2010.

In addition to these exciting new opportunities, the city also undertook collaborative efforts to change in the following community and economic development areas:

1. In October, the Veneta City Council adopted a new tree code. While this event may not sound significant, it is the end product of a year of work that was the result of a coordinated effort by a committee of community stakeholders including the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Neighbors for Responsible Growth, developers, attorneys and concerned citizens. In addition public input was sought through a community dialogue and a series of public hearings. The newly adopted tree code may well prove to be model for other communities in the state.

2. Veneta's city staff work with our state legislators in the area of transportation resulted in the award of a state grant. Consequently, Veneta will welcome a new transit center in 2010. The grant will allow Lane Transit District to construct a new transit facility with accompanying on site parking for commuters. The facility, to be constructed at the Fern Ridge Center or adjacent to Territorial Road, will also serve as an anchor to the downtown development.
3. Perhaps the epitome of collaboration in 2008 was the formation of the West Lane Cities Alliance. Working together to address the issues arising from the delay of the adoption of countywide Coordinated Population Projections, the communities of Florence, Junction City, and Veneta opted to explore a variety of common ground interests. The three will work together to present regional issues to county and state lawmakers. Transportation, tourism and environmental concerns have been targeted along with the continuing issue of the Coordinated Population Projection, critical to the cities' development of water and wastewater facilities.
4. A citizen advisory committee composed of representatives from the school district, the Garcia Center and the Fern Ridge Library worked with the city's RARE intern to compile a Community Facilities Plan. In addition to a community survey, the plan utilized the downtown Master Plan, a previous Parks Board survey, and the Fern Ridge Strategic Plan. This plan outlined citizen preferences for additions to the community. Surprisingly, a senior center and the pool topped the list. The results will be used to submit a Community Development Block Grant application for funding to construct a new Senior Center in the Downtown area.

These major accomplishments are the hallmarks of 2008, the year of change. Change was also felt not only in the community but also within the city itself. Long term Mayor Tim Brooker and equally long term councilor Tom Cotter opted not to seek re-election, triggering the first competitive election and the first organized write in campaign. The loss of these two veteran civic volunteers will be felt long into 2009. But it is hoped that they will continue to offer sage and much needed advice to their replacements.

Given the continuation of the downward trend in the economy it is anticipated that 2009 will continue to see the need for the active involvement of both our current and new community partners. The financial impact of the Larson lawsuit will continue to be felt in 2009, as is the possibility of decreased property tax revenues. Yet in the forthcoming year, we will face major issues as we continue to implement the Downtown Development Plan, update the water and wastewater plans and implement a new accounting and utility billing software. Again this year we will need to provide a summer recreation program while we await the construction of the new pool and we need to continue to build upon the success of the Wings and Wine Festival and Earth Day. These are just some of the known projects we can anticipate. Undoubtedly, there will be others that we cannot.

It will therefore be even more critical in 2009 to strengthen our collaborative relationships with our community partners. The City is fortunate to have an outstanding staff, headed by the indefatigable Ric Ingham yet the list of needs is long and now more than ever we will need to leverage our scarce resources to meet the common good. If 2008 was the year of change; let us all work to make 2009 the year of the volunteer.

The lesson learned in 2008 is by facing challenges together and seeking collaborative solutions, we can succeed. We need the input of our citizens who are willing to step up, and offer their ideas, time and energy to make a difference in building our civic pride.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.